

ST MARY'S ON THE HILL PARISH

THE DEVELOPING WORLD GROUP



“Putting the future in their hands”

HOW DID IT START?

The Developing World Group meets on the **second Monday of the month at 7 30 pm in St Malachy's room** in St Bernard's Church. **(Temporarily suspended due to restrictions)**

It started when the then Parish Priest, Fr Dan Whyte had the idea of establishing a Third World Group within the Parish. A small group of parishioners met for the first time in 2000 with the aim of supporting the work of Trocaire. The founding members promoted **Global Gifts**, the 24 Hour fast and 'Yellow Bucket' collection as part of the Lenten campaign.

With the arrival and involvement of Fr Ciaran Dallat, fundraising for specific projects began. Fr Ciaran had been in Peru and asked if the group could fundraise for the Peruvian community, he had worked in. First-hand experience informed him that the best way to help this community was to provide a 'Social Worker' who could help the poorer members of the community access various services.

Fr Gabriel Lyons introduced **St Brigid's Crosses** a very successful fundraiser in his previous Parish. We gathered in his house in 2005. Most of us didn't know how to make the crosses or couldn't remember, but we were given a demonstration. The first attempt took 30 minutes, but we persevered. The tea and biscuits provided are always very welcome and we all enjoy reviving this ancient tradition.



Making St Brigid's Crosses from rushes at the end of January

WHAT DO WE DO & WHY DO WE DO IT?

Our faith calls us joyfully to love God and our neighbours. Through our modest efforts and your generosity together we live out our obligations to redress the injustice of poverty. We help dedicated workers care for those who have least, recognising in them their inalienable dignity created in the image of Christ.

The aim of the group is to support children and young people in the developing world. We do this by channelling funding and prayer to people directly known to us. These contacts in the developing world arise through parishioners or priests of the parish and ensure we make best use of our funds, getting regular feedback on how the money is used.

PROJECTS SUPPORTED

Fr Chandran's presence in the Parish (2006) led us to supporting a project in India. He was trying to provide clean water for people of the poorest Tribal Casts.

The involvement of Edmund Rice Secondary School in Project Zambia, a school's project based in Zambia, resulted in funds being given to help the work of the Project.

We have also had connection with a school in Ethiopia. A link with Tuesday's Child was made which eventually led us to supporting Fr Conor Donnelly. So far, we have helped him provide first pairs of shoes, a water tank for a school with no running water and new bathrooms (the children made the bricks for the bathrooms themselves – see the front cover of the booklet).



New shoes for well-trodden feet!



Fr Conor Donnelly

Following the visit of a student from the parish to India with the Saphara charity, the group supported the building and staffing of a Nursery school to allow Tribal children to access education.

Fr P J McCamphill (brother of a parishioner) works tirelessly in Kenya and over the years we have helped him in his efforts. These have included bringing clean water and light to small rural communities, companionship and comfort to the dying, and food and access to education for children. He has been an inspiration to the Group and makes time to visit us when he is home. His light-hearted stories of celebrating mass in a local Kenyan prison every Sunday leave us breathless at his courage and trust in God. In turn he remembers the Group and the wider Parish of St Mary's On the Hill in his prayers.



Sister Rita



Fr P J McCamphill

A project we began to support in 2018 is the work Sr Rita (Fr Darren Brennan's aunt) of the Sisters of the Holy Cross who helps street children in Lusaka the capital of Zambia. Sr Rita is manager of a school in Lusaka which offers vocational skills training for the street children, a route out of their abject poverty. The trip to Guatemala with Fr Raymond McCullagh and Habitat inspired a Parish initiative which saw groups of young people from the Parish going to Guatemala during their Summer Holidays. They liaised with an orphanage which was trying to improve the conditions for children.



Some children are happy with the simplest of Christmas presents – soap and school bags!

More recently we have supported the work of Sr Mary, a parish sister working with poor children in the townships of South Africa. She is originally from Glenarm and knew Fr Aidan Kerr when he was parish priest there. She recently sent an email to thank the Developing World Group for a donation that came just at the right time,

"Some of the children have really difficult homes. Many of our parent's drink – partly to forget or drown their pain and the children are neglected. It so often happens that a desperate need turns up. I turn to God in prayer with the pain and the need. And within a day or two, something happens to help. I am so incredibly grateful to St Marys on the Hill Developing World Group. God bless and reward you and the parish for your generosity."



FUNDRAISING

Rather than plan one large fundraiser it was decided that individual members would organise events or activities that they felt comfortable doing and so our first fundraisers included Musical Moments, a concert by Fortwilliam Musical Society, a Fireside Quiz and a **Table Quiz** in Fortwilliam Golf Club.

Since then, fund raising has continued with various projects in different countries being supported (some long-term, others one-off) and different fundraising activities being tried. The Group membership has also changed over the years but a direct link with projects in the Developing World and a focus on the needs of children have been a constant. For instance, the sister of a member of the group was working in an AIDS Centre in South Africa and funds were sent to assist her in her work.

The various fundraising events reflect the talents of the membership with some events becoming an annual feature whilst others have been unique, such as paid participation in a taste panel for a scientific study which was the result of a chance conversation in the hairdresser's! Some members cannot attend the monthly meeting but are willing to be called upon to help with events.

In May 2008, a **cake sale** was added to the list of fund-raising activities and has now become an annual event. There have also been a cake decoration demonstration and greeting card making, led and resourced by members.

We remain grateful to the people of the parish for your generosity and to the priests of the parish, Fr Pat Sheehan, Fr Aidan Kerr and Fr Brendan Beagon for their encouragement and concrete support for our efforts.



A water tank...



...gratefully received

HOW CAN YOU HELP?

You can help in a number of ways.

1. If you are interested in joining the Developing World Group why not come along to one of our meetings any **second Monday of the month at 7.30pm** in St Malachy's room in St Bernard's Church.
2. If you have an idea to help with fundraising let the Group know.
3. If you are willing to become an 'associate member', someone we can call upon to bake a cake, help with making St Brigid's crosses or support our annual Table Quiz you can leave your name and phone number with the parish office and they will pass it on to the Group.



ST MARY'S ON THE HILL PARISH

DEVELOPING WORLD GROUP FINANCIAL REPORT 2019

	2019	2018
OPENING BAL	2902.52	6036.99
INCOME		
St Brigids Crosses	1067.45	1031.48
Quiz Night	830.00	555.00
Donation to Frankies Nursery	200.00	
Thursday Coffee mornings	102.60	88.00
Donation to Sr Ritas projects	2000.00	
Ballots – Strictly Dancing	446.20	
Hungry Childrens box	1309.51	728.89
Cake sale	1280.00	1629.00
Euros exchanged	82.00	
St Bernards Playgroup	36.50	
Other donations	603.93	1490.00
TOTAL INCOME	7958.19	5522.37
EXPENDITURE		
Sr Ritas projects	2025.00	2689.00
Fr Conor's Projects		
School shoes	1025.00	
School toilets	1025.00	
Medicines and Water Tank	1025.00	
Frankies Nursery	1030.00	
Fr P J McCaamphills projects	2000.00	2500.00
Guatamala orphanage	1004.87	3480.73
Bank Fees	83.98	75.74
TOAL EXPENDITRE	9218.85	8669.73
CLOSING ACCOUNT	1641.86	2902.52